

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for concealing encoding unique identifiers on products comprising:

directing a plurality of high energy electromagnetic waves at material comprising the product such that the convergence point of the waves is within the material;
altering the convergence point of said high energy electromagnetic waves such that the three-dimensional structure of material within the product is disrupted such that said unique identifier is formed.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the encoding is performed on material which is in a molten or semi-molten stage.

3. An apparatus for reading said encoding of claim 1 and comparing the same to information contained in a database comprising:

a scanning device capable of discerning the internal contour of materials and reading an internal encodation;

a computer database relating the internal encodation with information pertaining to the purchaser of a good or the good's manufacture or source of origin;

a processing device for correlating the information in the computer database with internal encodation discerned by said scanning device.

4. A method of identifying the owner of a good, or the good's manufacture or source of origin, comprising:

encoding a unique identifier on a product;

placing a visible electronically-readable package identifier correlatable with, or identical to, said unique identifier on said product;

inputting said visible electronically-readable package identifier with information pertaining to the purchaser of the product, the good's manufacture or source of origin;

maintaining a database correlating said unique identifier with said information pertaining to the purchaser of the product, the good's manufacture or source of origin;

reading said unique product identifier; and

retrieving information pertaining to the purchaser of the product, the good's manufacture or source of origin from said database by means of providing the unique product identifier.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said product encodation is concealed.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said visible electronically-readable package identifier is input by electronic means.

7. 9. The method of claim 6 wherein said information pertaining to the purchaser of the product, the good's manufacture or source of origin is input by electronic means.

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